

THE  
*Bacon Professional*  
Banjo.

FREDERICK J. BACON  
MAKER



THE  
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THE  
MUSEUM OF  
ART AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



**Fred K. Bacon**

THE GREATEST EXPONENT OF THE  
**BANJO.**

THE MOST  
PLEASING  
**BANJO SOLOIST**  
BEFORE  
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.  
SURE TO PLEASE THE MOST CRITICAL.

— **REPERTOIRE** — **COMPRISES** **Grand Opera**  
DESCRIPTIVE & POPULAR SELECTIONS &  
SWEET OLD MELODIES ALWAYS DEAR TO THE HEART.



# THE BACON "PROFESSIONAL" BANJO

BUILT ON SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES.

I GUARANTEE the above to be the BEST BANJO IN THE WORLD.

REASONABLE IN PRICE.

The principal objection to the banjo resides in the fact that the tones are of short duration, and that they therefore have a sharp staccato quality which is objectionable.

An ALL WOOD rim produces a muffled or "TUBBY" tone which is also very undesirable.

In the BACON "PROFESSIONAL" Banjo the above objections are overcome by providing the rim with an annular chamber, within which the partly confined air can vibrate in harmony with the strings, thereby producing a strong, full and resonant tone.

Owing to this action of the sounding chamber the tones are PROLONGED and the staccato quality very greatly modified.

**THE BACON "PROFESSIONAL" BANJO IS POSITIVELY  
THE LOUDEST AND SWEETEST IN TONE, WITH SUSTAINING POWER NEVER  
BEFORE EQUALLED AND CANNOT BE OBTAINED IN ANY OTHER MAKE.**

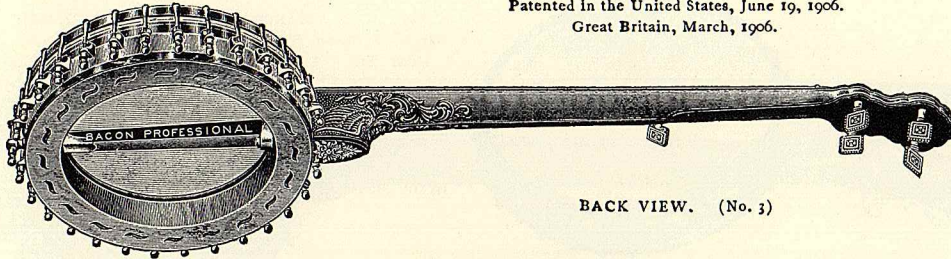
Has created a furore wherever heard. Finest in construction. A WORK OF ART.

**FREDERICK J. BACON, Manufacturer,**

*The Bacon "Professional" banjo, likewise the celebrated "Neverflip" banjo bridge, "No-Knot" tail piece and famous "Neverfalse" strings, gut; (all invented by Mr. Bacon) are used by the leading players and teachers all over the world.*



Patented in the United States, June 19, 1906.  
Great Britain, March, 1906.



BACK VIEW. (No. 3)

### Bacon "Professional" No. 3.

Polished Metal FLANGE TOP (over which head is drawn)

with annular sounding chamber—made of the *very best* old seasoned maple, twenty-eight steel flat hooks and closed end-long nuts. Outside—maple, sectional wood rim, highly polished, bound with imitation tortoise shell.

Choice seasoned curly white maple neck with fancy veneer through center of back of fingerboard. Heavy ebony fingerboard, with combination of fancy veneers underneath, also peg head, the same back and front. Handsome Inlaid and Engraved "Dragon," made of the very choicest colored pearl, in peg head. Gold plated patent keys with beautiful pearl tips. Handsomely carved neck.

**NO KNOT TAIL PIECE—NEVERSLIP BRIDGE.**

This instrument, in tone and artistic construction, is the finest that can be made for the money.

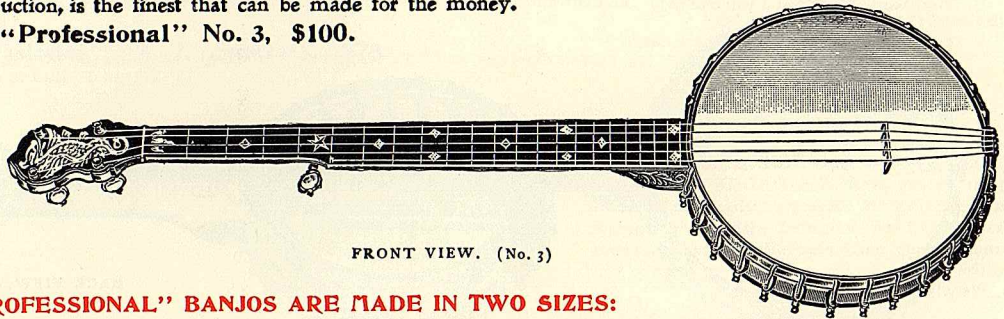
**Price of the Bacon "Professional" No. 3, \$100.**

(From the Eminent Banjoist and Teacher.)

HARRISBURG, PA., Oct. 6, 1905.

Dear Mr. Bacon: Your new Banjo is quite a surprise to me. Yet in this age of great inventions one should not be surprised at anything. I must say however, that in the way of musical instruments, this is deserving of especial mention. The tone is loud but sweet in quality, Workmanship fine, and vibration wonderful. Send me a No. 2 and a No. 1. Wishing you the success that you deserve, I am Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANK S. MORROW.



FRONT VIEW. (No. 3)

**BACON "PROFESSIONAL" BANJOS ARE MADE IN TWO SIZES:**

**10¾ inch Rim, 19 inch Fingerboard, Weight 6 Pounds.**

**11 inch Rim, 19½ inch Fingerboard, Weight 6¼ Pounds.**

Columbus, Ohio, December 20, 1905.

Dear Mr. Bacon: "Professional" banjo No. 3 received the 9th. Have by this time had a chance to give it a thorough trial. At the concert last week I had a banjoist station himself in the last row of the third gallery in a theatre of 5,000 capacity while I played, accompanied by a 16-part orchestra. Banjoist claims to have heard every note—even the **TREMOLO**. Tone and workmanship elegant. Plays the easiest of any banjo I ever owned. Success to you.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHAS. H. WILL.

(Read the second letter from Chas. H. Will,  
the great banjoist from Columbus, Ohio.)

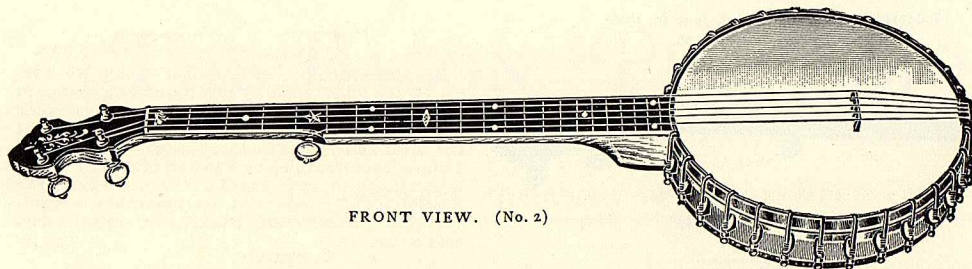
COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 31, 1906.

Dear Mr. Bacon: Banjo getting better every day. Made a great hit with it at the Great Southern Theatre last Thursday. Had 12-part orchestra accompaniment, and was heard in every part of this immense theatre.

Yours truly,

C. H. WILL.





FRONT VIEW. (No. 2)

### Bacon "Professional" No. 2.

The rim is exactly the same as No. 3. Handsome white maple neck, with narrow strip of ebony through back of fingerboard; ebony fingerboard bound with celluloid. The twenty-two frets being inside of binding, thus making a smooth finish. Neat pearl designs engraved. Neck handsomely polished.

PATENT KEYS AND NO KNOT TAIL-PIECE—NEVERSLIP BRIDGE.

Price of Bacon "Professional" No. 2, \$50. <sup>50</sup>/<sub>100</sub>

You have a remarkable instrument, and one which cannot fail to impress the fraternity favorably. The tone is both brilliant and sweet.

Your banjo is indeed a work of art. You certainly deserve lots of credit in bringing out that banjo. There is nothing like it on the market. It ought to please the most skeptical.

Your banjo is great. Plays very easy.

Received the "Bacon Professional" No. 3 a few days ago, and I am simply delighted with the wonderful tone and finish.

HARTFORD, CONN., July 6, 1906.

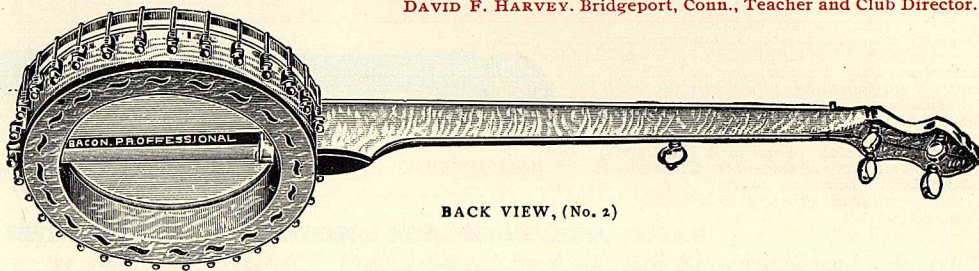
Mr. Fred. J. Bacon,

Dear Sir: We have sold quite a number of your Patent Professional Banjos with success and satisfaction. Every purchaser so far as we know has been delighted with the instrument and in every particular fully substantiates your claim for it.

We wish you success in the sale.

Very truly yours,

JOHN M. GALLUP & Co.



BACK VIEW, (No. 2)

MANCHESTER, N. H., Nov. 27, 1905.

Mr. F. J. Bacon, Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir: I received the (2) Bacon "Professional" No. 3 banjos, enclosed find check for the same. The sounding chamber which you have added to your banjos is a remarkable improvement. It gives your instruments a mellow sound, a strong resonant tone and a sustaining power which is a joy to the player.

Yours truly,

(Signed) B. A. BLOOMEY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 19, 1906.

Dear Mr. Bacon: After two weeks' trial during some very bad weather for banjos, I am thoroughly pleased with your No. 3 "Professional." As you are aware I already possess several very fine banjos, but I do not hesitate to say I like yours the best of them all. With best wishes,

Sincerely,

(Signed) CHAS. STUTSMAN,  
1020 11th Street. N. E.

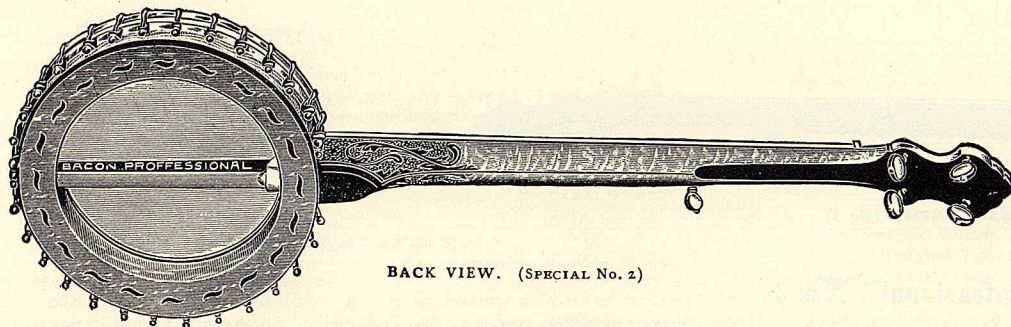
MYRON A. BICKFORD, Springfield, Mass.

C. J. LEVIN, Baltimore, Md.

MISS EVA COLLINS, Famous Vaudeville Banjoist.

DAVID F. HARVEY, Bridgeport, Conn., Teacher and Club Director.





BACK VIEW. (SPECIAL No. 2)

### Bacon "Professional" Banjo No. 2 (Special.)

The rim is the same as the No. 2. Handsome white maple neck with narrow strip of ebony through back of fingerboard. Back of peg-head ebony veneered. Ebony fingerboard bound with celluloid. The 22 frets inside of binding. Fancy inlaid engraved pearl design in peg head. Pearl positions neatly engraved on fingerboard.

Bessemer steel flat hooks heavily nickel plated.

Finely carved neck.

**Price of Bacon "Professional" No. 2 (Special), \$75.**

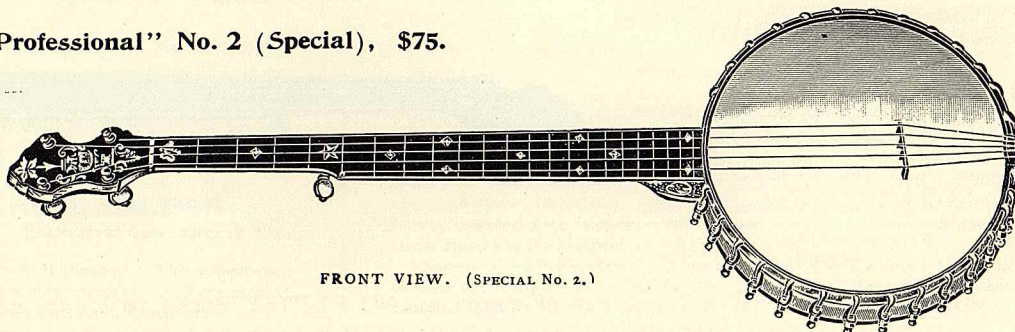
NEW HAVEN, CONN., July 31, 1906.

*Mr. F. J. Bacon,*

Dear Sir: After having given the Bacon Banjeaurines a thorough trial we can heartily recommend them in every way. We have sold most all of the leading makes of Banjos in the past 40 years but have found none of them equal to the Bacon in regard to tone, and ease of fingering. We have placed a number of your instruments on the University Banjo Club, and they have all proven very satisfactory. Wishing you much success,

Very truly yours,

CHARLES H. LOOMIS.



FRONT VIEW. (SPECIAL No. 2.)

(From America's Expert Banjoists.)

En Route, PATTERSON, N. J., Dec. 4, 1905

*Mr. Frederick J. Bacon,*

Dear Sir: We have given the Bacon "Professional" Banjo a thorough and exhaustive test, and have yet to find its equal. The tone is loud and yet sympathetic and sweet, and the workmanship of the highest order,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) McGRATH BROS.,  
Empire Theatre, Patterson, N. J.

NEWARK, N. J., Oct. 27, 1905.

*Mr. Frederick J. Bacon, Hartford, Conn.*

Dear Sir: The No. 3 Banjo that I ordered from you received O. K. I am glad to let you know that the claims you make for them are fully sustained in every particular. I have had some good banjos in my time, but this one beats them all. It is certainly a beauty both in tone and finish, and I am well satisfied with it. Hoping that you will sell lots of them, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HARRY FISHER,  
Studio, 117 Oliver Street.





BACK VIEW. (No. 1)

### Bacon "Professional" No. 1.

The *Rim* is exactly the same as the No. 2, excepting the wood work is all finished in a beautiful, selected cherry, highly polished. Handsome cherry neck, Ebony fingerboard, with pearl position marks. Fingerboard bound with white celluloid; the frets being inside of binding. Handsome star in peg head, Patent keys and NO-KNOT TAIL PIECE and NEVERSLIP BRIDGE.

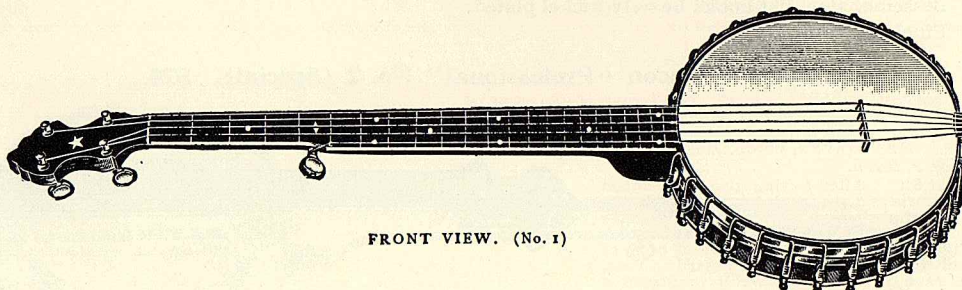
This is the best banjo ever offered for the money.

Price of Bacon "Professional" No. 1, \$35.40<sup>00</sup>

BIDDEFORD, ME., December 21, 1905.  
 Dear Friend Bacon: Your banjo is certainly a  
 "BIRD." If I could not get another one, I would  
 not part with it for any amount.  
 Yours truly,  
 (Signed) ERNEST H. SWANEY, Soloist.

ALLENTOWN, PA., July 30, 1906.  
 My Dear Bacon: The No. 2 "Professional" banjo  
 was duly received. It is like yourself—great, musical, modest. Your banjo, your strings, your music,  
 and yourself are an invincible obstacle in the banjo  
 world. The fact that you are giving us so much  
 with so little "say" is the most admirable stamp of  
 the true artist.

Very respectfully,  
 (Signed) OTTO S. WOLFE.



FRONT VIEW. (No. 1)

NEW LONDON, Mo., January 30, 1906.  
 F. J. Bacon, Esq., Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir: I received my banjo all O. K., and  
 find it to be, if anything, superior to your representation. It certainly is a fine piece of work. I  
 am delighted with the loud and sweet quality of  
 tone. Its carrying power is wonderful. The  
 workmanship is the neatest I have ever seen,  
 and I think you deserve great credit for such  
 skillful ingenuity. Wishing you the greatest  
 success, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J. W. CONN.

P. S.—I would like one of your photos.

DURBAN, NATAL, SO. AFRICA.

Mr. F. J. Bacon;

Dear Sir: I am just in receipt of the Bacon  
 "Professional" banjo, all correct and in good  
 condition and consider it the finest banjo I have  
 ever handled. The tone and finish are alike  
 splendid. I am having the opinion of some of  
 the best banjoists on your instrument, and all  
 those who have already seen and heard agree  
 that it is "tip top." I am, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. M. FLINN.

"Bacon" Banjos NEVER get out of shape. NO FLIMSY necks to warp, nor "EGG SHELL" rims.  
 Fingerboard ABSOLUTELY perfect, three octaves.



(From R. Hempel, Director of the Atlantic City Conservatory of Music.)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., May 11, 1906.

Friend Bacon: The "Professional" Banjo No. 2 came to hand. Enclosed find check. I must say it is the most powerful in tone I have ever heard in a banjo. The tone is also very mellow. The fingerboard is perfect and true. It plays very easy. The carefully selected material and workmanship is fine. Wishing you the best of success for such an improvement towards the banjo manufacturing, I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) RICHARD HEMPEL.

(A Musician of the First Rank.)

OGDENSBURG, N. Y., Nov. 20, 1905.

Mr. F. J. Bacon, Hartford, Conn.,

Dear Sir: Banjo arrived all O. K. It is certainly a "Gem of the First Water." Competitors should "go way back and sit down." Wishing you continued success, I am most respectfully,

(Signed) J. E. GREEN.

(From D. Acker, The Well-Known Teacher.)

WILKESBARRE, PA., Nov. 14, 1905.

My Dear Bacon: I send you herewith check to cover cost of the banjo which is just as good as you claim it to be. It is a fine one throughout and admired by everyone who has thus far seen it. One of my leading players is after one just like it. Answer by return mail and let me know how soon you could have another one here. Yours friendly,

(Signed) DANIEL ACKER.

WINSTED, CONN., March 13, 1906.

F. J. Bacon, Hartford, Conn.

Friend Bacon: Banjo arrived March 1. I am more than pleased with the loud but sweet tone. I could easily write a full page on the good points of the Bacon "Prof." but will cut it short. You certainly have got them all beat. I have had them all.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) JUD P. LANDON.

(From C. L. Hetzler, Supervisor of Public Music Schools.)

FLETCHER, OHIO, Dec. 19, 1905.

Mr. Frederick J. Bacon, Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir: Received Banjo O. K. Am very well pleased. The appearance and tone is excellent. The execution is very easily performed. Very glad to hear from you at any time in regards the banjo world and its music.

Your sincerely,

(Signed) C. L. HETZLER.

(From one of Hartford's Crack Banjoists.)

Dear Bacon: Received the No. 3 "Professional" and I am almost "tickled to death" with it. What won't you be up to next? "Nuff said."

Yours,

(Signed) HENRY NEWMARKER.

(From New Haven's Crack Banjoist.)

NEW HAVEN, CONN., June 18, 1906.

My Dear Mr. Bacon: The "Professional" Banjo I have given a thorough test, and find that it possesses all the points of excellence that goes to make up a perfect instrument. The sounding chamber really does sustain the tone. In a word, "I am now wearing the smile that won't come off." Make me another just like the one I now have.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CHAS. H. O'CONNELL.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 20, 1906.

Frederick J. Bacon, Forestdale, Vt.,

Dear Sir: The sample lot of banjos arrived safely and are all sold. We are sending order for more to be shipped at once. Every player who has seen them is delighted with tone and workmanship. With best wishes for your future success, we remain,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MUSIC CO.,

E. L. DOE, Manager Small Goods Dept.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 20, 1906.

Dear Mr. Bacon: I have had the pleasure of trying the banjos sent the Southern California Music Co., and I wish you would send me a No. 3 immediately. I am thoroughly convinced that you have an instrument that surpasses all other makes in every respect and they are certainly one notch closer to *Banjo Perfection*. Their clear, crisp tone and wonderful carrying power, coupled with immense volume and sustaining power certainly make them a superlative instrument.

I have sold banjos on the coast for a number of years and I do not hesitate to state that they are the easiest selling banjos that I have had the pleasure of handling. Wishing you success, I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) EDWARD BORGUM, (of Seattle, Wash.)

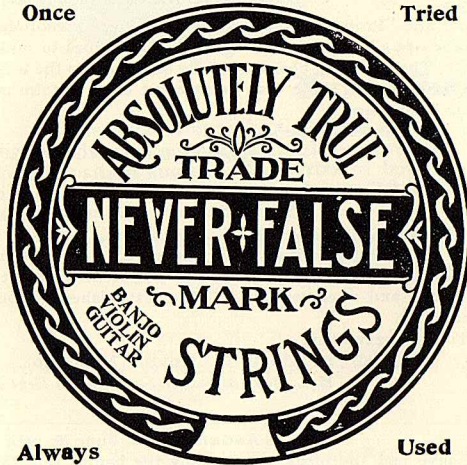


# "NEVERFALSE" STRINGS.

The Standard of the World.

Once

Tried



Always

Used

Every String Guaranteed  
Absolutely Perfect

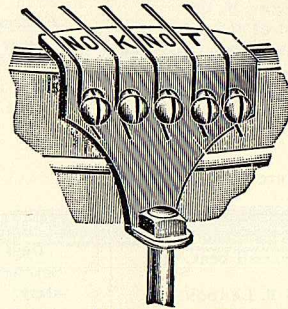
**NON-STRETCHING.** Moisture-proof and durable. Superior quality of tone. Made of the very best gut. Positively the only Warranted True Gut String on the Market. ❀❀❀❀❀

"NEVERFALSE" STRINGS are made of the finest gut obtainable, and every one is carefully made by a special process. Their life is about three times that of the better grades of other makes. Dampness or moisture from the hands will not affect a "Neverfalse" string, furthermore it will not stretch over 5 minutes, and in quality of tone it is unapproached by any other. A trial always convinces the most skeptical.

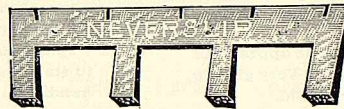
"Neverfalse" Strings are made for the Banjo, Violin, and Guitar.

**Prices of "Neverfalse" Strings as follows:**  
Banjo, 1st, 2d, and 3d, 15c. each, \$1.25 a doz.  
Banjo, 4th, (celebrated "Neverstretch")  
10c. each, \$1.00 a doz.

Best Violin and Guitar, (German Gut)  
20c. each, 6 for \$1.00  
Violin G, 20c. each, 6 for \$1.00



Bacon's Famous "No-knot" Tailpiece, 35 cents.



Bacon's Famous "Never-slip" Bridge, 10 cents.

## Read the Opinions of the Leading Players and Teachers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27, 1902.

Dear Mr. Bacon: Have used the sample strings given me to try, and find them to be all you claim for them and the best string I ever used. You can send me one bundle of 1st, one bundle of 2d, and one dozen bass strings. Wish you much deserved success, I am,

Sincerely,

VESS L. OSSMAN.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9, 1901.

Friend Bacon: Your strings are the best that "ever happened." At last there is a way of getting good strings.

Yours truly,

FRED. S. STUBER.

PHILADELPHIA, March 3, 1901.

Dear Bacon: Strings received. After testing them I find they are all you claim, i. e., "Neverfalse." Have tried several and find them all true. You may send the following order.

Yours sincerely,

FRED. C. MEYER.

BOSTON, MASS., March 4, 1901.

Dear Mr. Bacon: Your strings are excellent and are giving fine satisfaction. Mr. Babb is also stuck on them.

You can send another bundle any time.

Yours truly,

G. L. LANSING.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4, 1901.

Friend Bacon: I must say that you have succeeded in making a banjo string perfectly true. The tone is also remarkably fine.

Yours truly,

THOMAS J. ARMSTRONG.

ALBANY, N. Y.

F. J. Bacon Co.: After giving your "Neverfalse" violin strings a thorough trial, I must say they are the best of all strings I have ever used. Wishing you every success, I am,

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. BOEHNLEIN,  
Orchestra Leader, Harmann's Bleeker Hall.

And hosts of others.



NEW YORK, JUNE 20, 1906.

*Frederick J. Bacon, Esq.*

Dear Sir: I have tried the No. 3 "Professional" banjo I ordered from you, and find it all right in every respect. The tone and workmanship is superb.

You may go ahead and make me another banjo 12 inch rim, 19½ fingerboard. Wishing you much deserved success,

I am sincerely,

(Signed) VESS L. OSSMAN

Mr. Ossman who wrote the above letter is the FAMOUS PHONOGRAPH BANJOIST, known the world over.

*This is a reprint of a circa 1906 Bacon catalog. The catalog is reprinted from an original, courtesy of Bernunzio Vintage Instruments, 2001 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield, NY 14526*



